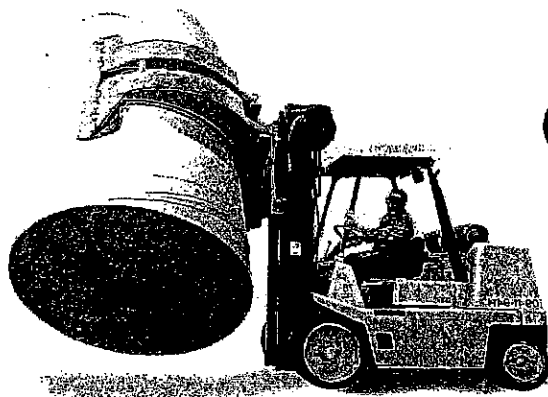


## The Benefits of Paper

Paper benefits society in so many ways. Many everyday items are made out of paper—tissues, paper cups, and cardboard packaging. Perhaps most important, paper is used as a portable, inexpensive way to print words and images. Throughout time, paper has allowed people to express their thoughts, record history, and share knowledge. In addition, the paper industry employs many people, and generates income for the economy.

## Paper and the Environment

Paper has negative impacts on the environment. Each step in the papermaking process requires energy and produces wastes. Some of these wastes, such as dioxins, are toxic. Dioxins form when water is used to flush chemicals from the paper. Paper products also make up a lot of the garbage in landfills. Because of the environmental costs, engineers are working to create a new type of “paper” called electronic paper, or e-paper. Someday soon, you might use flexible, ultra-thin, digital screens instead of paper.



**5 Water is added.**  
Water is added to the pulp to form slush. The slush is then sprayed onto wide screens. The water begins to drain off.

**6 Water is removed.**  
The paper is squeezed through several presses to remove the excess water.

**7 Paper is dried.**  
Heated rollers dry the paper, making it flat and smooth.

### Weigh the Impact

#### 1. Identify the Need

How does society rely on paper?  
How would your life be different if paper had never been invented?

#### 2. Explain briefly the paper-making process. Use informative above to help.

#### 3. Write

Write a paragraph or two comparing e-paper and regular paper. Be sure to include the pros and cons of both technologies based on your reading.

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